



1-866-579-RIDE, [www.PaCommuterServices.com](http://www.PaCommuterServices.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts:**

Brandy Heilman 717-620-2344  
Pat Wood 717- 236-3700  
Jim Hoffer, CAT, 717-233-5657

Jenna Reedy, rabbittransit, 717-846-5562  
Dave Kilmer, RRTA, 717-397-5613 ext. 1920  
Theresa Giurintano, COLT, 717- 274-3664

January 24, 2008

**Commuter Services reports regional transit rider increase**  
*Agencies provide more than 7.4 million rides*

York, Pa. – Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania today reported continued gains in transit ridership in the region in 2007.

Now providing more than 7.4 million rides are County of Lebanon Transit Authority (COLT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York County Transportation Authority (rabbittransit); Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); and Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin).

“One can only imagine the massive problem with traffic congestion if these riders were driving alone instead of hopping aboard these buses,” said Brandy Heilman, director of the Commuter Services program.

- CAT had 2,640,278 riders in calendar year 2007, up from 2.6 million the prior year for a gain of 1.2 percent.
- rabbittransit has seen a 7.6 percent increase in rides, to 2,120,593 in calendar 2007 from 1,971,253 in 2006.
- COLT projects more than 315,000 riders in the 2007-2008 fiscal year, an expected increase of nearly 14 percent from the previous fiscal year.
- RRTA had 2,295,443 riders in calendar 2007 versus 2,332,100 in 2006. Overall ridership decreased slightly because RRTA was no longer providing service for the School District of Lancaster.
- ACTA had 58,150 riders in 2007, a small decrease from 59,038 in the prior year.

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**New services in 2007:**

- COLT added express service to the Hershey Medical Center, which picks up at COLT's park & ride on Schneider Drive, the downtown terminal at 7<sup>th</sup> and Willow streets, Lebanon Valley Mall and Palmyra Wal-Mart. It also added a shuttle around the City of Lebanon and to destinations such as Wal-Mart.
- CAT installed automated ticket machines throughout the service area so passengers could purchase monthly and multiple ride tickets at their convenience; established a new park & ride location on the West Shore; began operating new suburban coaches on longer distance express routes; adjusted service to meet changing travel patterns in the area along Route 322 and Eisenhower Boulevard; and added two new routes (one to High Pointe Commons and one to the Department of General Services office complex across from the State Farm Show complex). Also, all CAT buses become fully accessible to wheelchairs during the year 2007.
- rabbittransit began offering pass purchases onboard the rabbit*EXPRESS*; launched a new Web site where passengers can buy passes online; created a new park & ride shuttle for York Hospital; and launched a new service targeting the college market.

Monthly bus passes for regional transit agencies range from \$30 to \$80 per month, or \$360 to \$960 a year. This is much less than what a commuter might spend to commute alone by car (an estimated \$4,000 a year to commute 30-miles round trip each weekday), Heilman pointed out.

A poll of working commuters completed by Commuter Services in November 2007 showed 92 percent think it is somewhat or very important to provide buses, light rail or train service to alleviate congestion, cut gas consumption and help the environment.

In the poll, increasing mass transit was favored by 54 percent and promoting more use of commute options was favored by 47 percent, ranking them well above building new roads (14 percent) and expanding existing ones (34 percent) to address commuting concerns.

Visit [www.PaCommuterServices.com](http://www.PaCommuterServices.com) for information on Commuter Services and links to the four transit agencies.

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**About Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania:**

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Commuter Services is a program of the non-profit Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership, whose board includes the Harrisburg Regional Chamber; the Gettysburg Adams, Lebanon Valley and York County Chambers of Commerce; Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Adams County Transit Authority (ACTA); County of Lebanon Transit Authority (COLT); Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA, Lancaster); York County Transportation Authority (rabbittransit); Capital Area Transit (CAT, Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg); the Lancaster, Lebanon and York metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); Harrisburg MPO (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties) and Adams Rural Planning Organization (RPO). Funding is provided by the Federal Highway Administration and PennDOT.